

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: CANEK

If you asked an American fan of lucha libre who the biggest star in the Mexico City lucha libre scene is today, many might guess Octagon, Atlantis, el Hijo del Santo, or Mil Mascaras. Not living there myself, I don't know for sure, but were I to guess, my first guess would be Canek. Canek was born in the Gulf of Mexico port city of Frontera, Tabasco, on June 19, 1954 (a date I have verified from two sources). Shortly after his birth, his family moved from Frontera to the larger Tabasco city of Villahermosa, where Canek was raised and for family purposes refers to still today as his family home. Canek was said to be a large child by Mexican standards and a large adolescent as well. He gravitated to bodybuilding, and apparently won some regional titles in Tabasco during his late teens and early twenties. Like many Mexican bodybuilders in the 1960s and 1970s, Canek gave a stab at lucha libre, and proved successful enough that he relocated to the capital city of Mexico City in the early 1970s. There, he trained at the gym of Felipe Ham Lee, who later would become the principal trainer for los Brazos. Lee, more so than most Mexican maestros, seems to impart the charismatics, timing, and theatrical side of his accumulated experience to his trainees. Canek debuted as a light heavyweight officially in March 1973 in the Mexico City suburbs. After the UWA/EMLL split in early 1975, Canek was slowly groomed by Rey Mendoza, Anibal, and others, as a future star. The UWA arbitrarily announced that it was declaring Lou Thesz as its initial World Heavyweight Champion due to his 35-plus-year-legendary record. In reality, they had found someone who would put over a top local star and still lend prestige to the new title. On August 27, 1978, at the 20,000-plus seat "el Palacio de los Deportes" arena in Mexico City, Canek defeated Lou Thesz in three falls in the first-ever UWA World Heavyweight Title change. Canek would turn out to hold on the title, much like Ric Flair and the American NWA World Heavyweight Title, off and on for the next fourteen years. Canek has become an 11-time champion. He has won and lost the belt to such men as el Scorpio I, Dos Caras (twice), Enrique Vera, Tiger Jeet Singh, Riki Choshu, Tatsumi Fujinami, and Big Van Vader. Canek has also wrestled a few tours of the United States (mostly in the Northeast at arenas like Madison Square Garden) and has made 13 tours of Japan, more than any other Mexican wrestler except Mil Mascaras and Dos Caras (though Rendo will pass Canek in that regards soon). Beyond the titles and the tours, though, remains the position on the card. Canek has headlined every important UWA card and feud, with minor exceptions for smaller weight titles, for all of the last fourteen-plus years, all with the same basic script of being the rudo who turns babyface to run out the evil foreigner. The best example of this script occurred in January/February 1984, when Andree el Gigante toured Mexico and this was back when he could do some things in the ring. Canek built up a huge feud and in what is remembered still today as the most memorable match in Mexico City history, Canek pinned Andre after a power body slam on Sunday, February 12, 1984, in front of over 25,000 fans at the "el Toreo de Cutaro Caminos" bull ring in suburban Naucalpan. Even though Canek is a big star today, 1983-1984 was his heyday, as wrestlers such as Hulk Hogan, Stan Hansen, Andre el Gigante, Choshu, Fujinami, and Singh came in from literally around the world to try to wrest the UWA World Title from Canek. I have had the pleasure of seeing Canek live three times and meeting him once. He is shorter than his stated biographical claim of 183 cm (6'1"); I peg him at about 5'10". His weight, listed at 108 kg or 230 pounds, is about right; that is large by Mexican standards. Though I am tired of his booking scenarios, I must admit that Canek's work rate and ring knowledge is excellent, and due to his size and name value, he would be the first wrestler that I would take (even ahead of los Brazos) if I could pick one to start a promotion with. Of all the luchadores in recent history, he is easily the most over for never having been in a movie. P. S., Dave Meltzer has reported his real name as "S. Estrada," and I have no more information on this subject than that.

FROM: LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 19

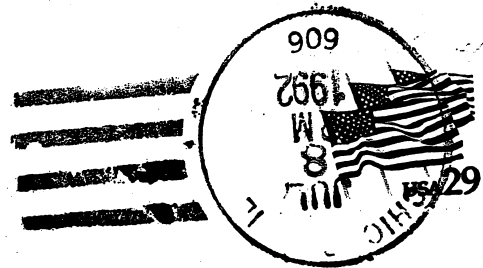
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

c/o STEPHEN H. SIMS

1427 WEST DICKENS AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614-3003

(312)477-3996



R. Scott Houston

1726 Heatherwood Way

P.O. Box 249

W. Friendship, MD

21974-0249

PAID THROUGH ISSUE 22

LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1992

\$1.00 PER ISSUE - 1427 WEST DICKENS AVE - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 20

EL DANDY WINS CMLL WORLD MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP Defeats Negro Casas in tourney final

El Dandy, considered by many serious lucha libre aficionados to be one of the the finest luchadores in the world today, defeated Jose "el Negro" Casas, considered *the* best, in the final of a tournament to crown a new CMLL World Middleweight Champion in the main event of the EMLL card held Friday, July 3, 1992, at la Arena Mexico.

Casas, whose real name is Jose "Pepito" Casas Ruiz (junior), was bidding to hold the world middleweight championships of two of the four sanctioning bodies in Mexico, the UWA and the CMLL (The NWA champion is Atlantis. The WWA title is vacant. The AAA has not declared any champion. The Mexican National Middleweight Champion is Octagon.)

El Dandy, whose real name is Roberto Gutierrez Frias, has been both a NWA World and Mexican National Middleweight Champion as recently as 1990. This was his first title match for the CMLL belt.

The CMLL belt had been first awarded in a tournament final in Acapulco, Guerrero, in December 1990. The Blue Panther had won the tourney final over el Satanico, but had had his title stripped on June 12th, 1992, for jumping to the rival AAA promotion when it split off from the EMLL on May 7th, 1992.

As reported by Lucha Libre Weekly correspondent David Scherer of Seaville, New Jersey [who by the way (plugola time) has six-hour, three-show sets of EMLL and UWA tapes for sale (very recent, off satellite) for \$16.00 per tape—write him at P. O. Box 612, Marmora, NJ 08223-0612], the match between Casas and el Dandy was said to be fabulous.

From the beginning ring entrances to the post-match celebration, the television time allotted to this match was over forty minutes. El Dandy was seconded by NWA World Middleweight Champion Atlantis, while Jose "el Negro" Casas was seconded by CMLL World Light Heavyweight Champion Pierroth junior. The referee was Roberto "el Guero" Rangel, *Mister Justicia*. The first fall went to Casas, as el Dandy submitted to the scorpion death lock cleanly. The second fall saw a Dandy clean pinfall victory. The hold he used was the indian death lock, but then flipping himself (Dandy) backwards into a bridge while still holding the death lock. El Dandy won the third fall and the match with his patented finisher, the Dandina Crade (also known as *la magisterial*). After the match, in a show of sportsmanship, el Dandy handed the belt to the exhausted Casas (All Japan just ran the exact same storyline in a title match between Stan Hansen and Toshiaki Kawada) after Casas had presented the belt initially to el Dandy. The grade of **** given by Scherer is the highest grade he has given to a lucha libre television match since he started reporting for Lucha Libre Weekly.

The rest of the card went as follows. The *inicial* off of television, saw Kato Kung Lee I and The Blue Demon junior face las Cavernicolas II and II (Troglodita and Cro Magnon), who are brothers of el Pirata Morgan and used to be billed as el Verdugo and el Hombre Bala. The *segunda* also off of television, had Pierroth junior, la Fiera, and la Bestia Salvaje face el Brazo de Plata, Ringo Mendoza, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon.

The main event saw el Faraon (Jose Luis Barajas Fernandez) upsetting M. S. 1 (Pablo Fuentes Reyna) in a *caballero contra caballero* match two falls to one. The finish of the third fall and the match looked goofy as M. S. 1, who was bleeding as much as any luchador Dave Scherer could ever remember, had el Faraon rolled up in a cradle, but let the hold go and let himself be pinned for the fall. This one was rated at ** 1/2. When was the last time the EMLL had two babyfaces/tecnicos win two stipulation matches cleanly over two heels/rudos? I can't even remember. The first fall saw M. S. 1 pin el Faraon cleanly with a diving body press (like a "superfly splash") from off of the top rope. The second fall saw a now-bloody el Faraon lifted up for a power bomb, but then turn the move into a hurracarrana. The third fall ended with the funky finish described above. Dave Scherer gave it *** until the finish, then lowered the rating to ** 1/2. By the end, M. S. 1 was laid out cold as barber Pancho Penzaloe went to work.

Two other matches aired on television. One was the main event from the Tuesday night card held June 30th, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo. In that match, King Haku (who everyone in Mexico apparently hates working with because he is so stiff and because he has a poor babyface style) teamed with Apolo Dantes and CHavo Guerrero to defeat the trio of famous sons (actually, all six except Haku are famous sons) made up of el Hijo del Solitario, el Hijo del Gladiador, and el Hijo del Espectro in two straight falls. The finish of the first fall saw all three tecnicos pin all three rudos pretty much simultaneously. The finish of the second fall saw el Hijo del Solitario (I guess Soli's month-long suspension ended up 3 days short) disqualified for fouling his big rival, Apolo Dantes. They'll have a big match soon.

The other match that aired on television was the *tercera* at la Arena Mexico. In that match, Atlantis, Lizmark, and King Haku defeated el Satanico, el Pirata Morgan, and Emilio CHarles junior two falls to one. In the first fall, Atlantis made el Satanico submit. The second fall saw all three rudos cover King Haku for the pinfall victory. And in the third fall, Atlantis made Emilio CHarles junior submit to Atlantis's own version of the torture rack. This was given **3/4.

* Let's go to some recent cards. The main event at the June 29th card at the "el Deportivo Olimpico" gym in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, saw King Haku team with el Hijo de Tinieblas to face Nitron and el Pirata Morgan.

* The main event of the card held Thursday, July 2, 1992, at Cuautla, Mexico, Mexico, had Neftali defending her Mexican National Ladies' Heavyweight Wrestling Championship against the challenge of la Sirenita (Guadalupe Bell Pena), who is, as we all know, Vandal Drummond's fave luchador! Also booked on this card was the debut of Eddy Guerrero as "la Mascara Magica." The main event had los Intocables del Ring (Pierroth junior, Masakre, and Jaque Mate), the CMLL World Trios Champions, in a non-title encounter versus the trio of King Haku, The Love Machine, and el Filoso. Neftali's match was the semifinal. The segunda of the four-match card had la Mascara Magica and el Metalico versus la Nueva Plaga del Ring (Ponzona and Enjambre). The *inicio* was not listed.

* La Arena Puebla began a two-week celebration of its anniversary on Saturday, July 4th, 1992. The main event featured 2/3 of los Nuevos Infeinales (M. S. 1 and el Pirata Morgan) versus 2/3 of los Intocables del Ring (Masakre and Pierroth junior). I definitely expect some sort of stipulation match to be set up for the following Saturday, July 11th. Also booked on the card, as captains on opposing trios teams, are el Hijo del Solitario and el Hijo de Tinieblas. We may be talking about their feud after the turn of the century, because it still may be going on then!

* Sunday, July 5th, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, saw Ciclon Ramirez defend his Mexican National Welterweight Championship versus el Felino (ex-"Babe Casas") in the main event. I hope to have results on page 8.

* Also on page 8 I hope to have results from the CMLL World Trios Championships title defense that was held on Sunday, July 5th, 1992, at la Arena Mexico. There, champions los Intocables del Ring (Jaque Mate, Masakre, and captain Pierroth junior) faced challengers el Dandy, Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, and captain Atlantis.

* The main event of the card at la Arena Coliseo from July 5th, 1992, was a *revancha en superlibre* (return revenge main event match) with Lizmark facing el Pirata Morgan, so I suppose Pirata won last Sunday (6/28).

* At la Arena Toluca in Toluca, Mexico, on Sunday, July 5th, 1992, the main event featured local stars el Tigro and el Scorpio Rojo versus el Pequeno Audaz and el Muneco Carinoso.

* And, I have the two main event matches from the card held Monday, July 6th, 1992, at the "el Deportivo Olimpico" gymnasium in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico. The main event featured a regular *parejas* match where each team had one member wearing a mask and one not. Each member of the losing team would lose his mask or hair, respectively. The match-up had Super Torombolo (mask) and Genaro Contreras junior (hair) versus el Suspensio (mask) and el Negro Peralta (hair). The semifinal on this card had Coralillo defending his Distrito Federal Lightweight Championship versus challenger el Principe Maya, the brother of Canek. That could be a real good match.

In late EMLL news items that I have, all miscellaneous stuff:

* Actors dressed up as EMLL stars like Lizmark or la Bestia Salvaje are doing TV ads for the Mexico Lottery.

* Cable channel Telemundo, which does a lucha libre-themed soap opera called "La Fuerza," is going to an all-family oriented programming starting August 15th, so that *telenovela* should end then.

* Speaking of soap operas, el Pirata Morgan defeated Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense, in a *telenovela* called "Super Carmen" via disqualification in the third fall for a *plancha prohibido* recently.

* America got a nice write-up in the July 3rd, 1992, edition of La Prensa. It even pictured him on the cover of its sports section holding the CMLL World Welterweight and UWF (Japan) Super Middleweight belts, the first time a Japanese UWF title has really been acknowledged (or defended as is supposed to be the case) in Mexico.

* The Custodia magazine lucha libre column this week (7/14) ragged on the EMLL for presenting Vampiro and others as "wrestling superstars." Come on, guys, "Billy" isn't that bad, really. Also, Zuleyma is out of action with a major injury. I do not know how long she is out; the paper just noted it was "indefinitely." I hope to know more soon.

Here are some other, non-result-related and non-card-related, news items that I have:

* For those of you with satellites, the EMLL show airs regularly on Saturday nights on satellite Morelos One, Channel 14, at 7:00 pm EDT/4:00 pm PDT. There is a rebroadcast every Sunday morning at 10:00 am EDT/7:00 am PDT.

* In addition to stripping The Blue Panther of his CMLL World Middleweight Championship on June 12th, 1992, the EMLL/CMLL also on that same day announced that it has stripped Cien Caras of his CMLL World Heavyweight Championship and has stripped la Mascarita Sagrada of his CMLL World Super-Mini-Estrellas Championship. The last one is kind of ridiculous because the EMLL has no midgets left working for them.

* The two "highlights" matches from the 6/15/92 EMLL show (the first saw la Bestia Salvaje's team beat Atlantis's team in two straight falls and the second saw the introduction of "los Angeles Blancos") were taped Tuesday, June 9, 1992. The EMLL now appears to be regularly highlighting Tuesday night main events on its Saturday night television shows to help Tuesday attendance. It is something they have not felt they needed to do in the past but obviously feel they need it now. I'd do the same thing I bet. "Los Angeles Blancos" got a nice writeup in Ovaciones in the 7/2/92 issue.

* El Egipcio was on a weekly lucha libre radio show in Mexico City back on Sunday, May 31st, 1992. The show is hosted by Wilfredo Gomez and co-hosted by the original Hara Kiri (not the Wally Yamaguchi Hara Kiri). The show airs on "Grupo Air" radio in Mexico City on Sundays from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

* A trivia note: The original ring name for "Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense" was going to be "Dustin Bones." The EMLL changed it at the last moment right before his debut back on February 12th, 1991. In a recent interview, Billy (I'll keep using his own nickname) finally admitted that the 2/12/91 match was in fact, as we had suspected, his debut match in wrestling and he did not debut as previously reported back in 1987.

* I have not reported on this yet (it got edited out by mistake) but a young lady trainee at the gymnasium run by el Gran Apache I and his wife Lady Apache died in training back on Tuesday, June 9th, 1992. The lady's name was Laura Violeta Morales Reyes. She was 17. She died after taking a desnucadora. That is the hold where a wrestler picks up his/her opponent in a fireman's carry and then drops him/her over his head straight onto the opponent's back. La Prensa, Mexico's largest circulation newspaper, reported the story in its July 11th, 1991 issue. In its issue of July 18th, the same newspaper printed a straight interview of the Apaches, with no mention of the tragedy.

* Las Cavernicolas I, II, and III (Popitekus, Troglodita, and CroMagnon) got a nice write-up in the 7/2 Ovaciones also.

* The original Huracan Ramirez, Daniel Garcia Arteaga, was interviewed recently by the magazine Titanes de Ring. Garcia claimed to be somewhat offended in two ways by the wave of Huracan Ramirezes that have followed him. One, as the stories go, he was offended because they always lost big stipulation matches. Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla has lost a hair and a mask match at la Arena Mexico and Ruben Garcia (Daniel's legit nephew) lost a mask match in Monterrey. Secondly, he was offended on the general principle that there have been five wrestlers to carry on the "Huracan Ramirez" name. The only luchador he did not openly criticize in the interview was the best of the second-generation Ramirezes, that being Ciclon Ramirez, long-time Mexican National Welterweight Champion.

* I have learned that two of the EMLL wrestlers who were to have gone on the tour of Jordan are in fact husband and wife. In 1977, Mitsuki Wong married el Rayo de Jalisco junior. Wong then trained with Rayo junior and they both trained with legendary Guadalajara trainer Javier Cuahemoc "el Diablo" Velasco. Wong then debuted on September 21, 1981. That date is eerie to me personally. Last September 21, 1991, was the only time I ever saw Mitsuki Wong wrestle, either live or on television. She was wrestling the segunda at la Pista Arena Revolucion while Jody Boyns (editor of the fine New England Wrestling Scene Newsletter at 521 Pine Street, Apartment 304, Manchester, NH, 03104) and I were watching her match, completely unaware this was her 10th anniversary night! I don't know if the "Mitsuki Wong" name is a ring name or her real name, but a recent story in Box y Lucha suggests the latter.

* I learned that "el CHamaco Valaguez," Javier Valaguez, debuted on February 8, 1976, and is going into a small feud shortly with Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, as a matter of revenge. Valaguez lost his hair to Cruz last September 18, 1991, at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, right before Cruz lost his hair to Apolo Dantes for the first time.

* I also learned that "Lethal" was born August 21, 1967, in Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and that after being trained by local maestro "el Jabli," he debuted in 1990 for the EMLL. He made it to the Mexico City territory in 1992 and will work the EMLL cards at la Arena Coliseo when they return there on 7/29/92 for a five-week run there.

* Las Irmas (Irma Aguilar and Irma Gonzales) return to the la Arena Coliseo shows on the same tour.

* I also learned that "Razama," who works Puebla mainly but has formed a regular opening-card pareja with Christian Diaz, is really Jose Felix Garduno Estrada. He was born March 1, 1967, in the state of Mexico. He debuted on March 8, 1987, and weighs 75 kg (166 pounds). The ring-name is of a Hindu prince ("Zuleyma" is a Hindu princess). Razama has won 2 hair matches and 1 mask match, but lost his mask at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl to el Rayo Tapatio.

* Finally, el Metalico, who just debuted May 30, 1992, is from Villa Coopa, Mexico. He's 175 cm tall & weighs 90 kg.

UWA

First, here are some recent UWA cards. On Monday, June 29th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla, in Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, the UWA held its traditional Monday night card. The main event was Canek teaming with The Can-Am Express I y II to face Enrique Vera, The Black Scorpio, and el Villano III. The semifinal saw las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V) facing Shu, el Guerrero, Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). The *segunda* found los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro), who are the UWA World Trios Champions, facing off against Silver King, el Celestial, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada in a non-tite match. The *inicial* saw Ricky Boy, Zeus (ex-Rey Richard), and el Hijo del Diablo face Lasser, Moctezuma, and el Ninja Sasuke ("Masa Michinoku").

* Los Guerreros del Acero I y II (The Steel Warriors I and II) and their manager el Sacerdote Maldito headlined a small card held Thursday, July 2, 1992, at la Arena San Juan Pantitlan in the Pantitlan area of the Distrito Federal.

* The main event of the traditional Thursday night card held July 2nd, 1992, at la Arena Toluca in Toluca, Mexico, Mexico (not where "Tito Santana" is from) saw el Villano III and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada versus Kahos I and el Engendro. The semifinal saw Moctezuma and Tranformer (ex-Kendo) versus el Hijo del Diablo and Shu, el Guerrero. The *segunda* saw Kahos junior and Casandro vs. el Ojo de Tigre and Laser. The *inicial* had Mr. Condor v. Pavorreal.

* The main event of the traditional Thursday night card held July 2nd at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, had a UWA World Trios Championships title defense. Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) faced challengers las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V). The semifinal saw Enrique Vera team with el Celestial and el Coloso to face The Babe Face I, el Scorpio I, and Doctor Wagner junior. The *segunda* saw el Vagabundo and el Gran Apache I face los Mohicanos I and II. This is el Mohicano I's first match back after a severe broken bone suffered in late May, 1992. The *inicial* had el Pequeno Audaz and Coralillo facing el Gran Calcuta and el Viento Negro.

* I hope to have results of this card in the "late news" section, but in case I do not, here was the line-up for the traditional UWA card held Sunday, July 5, 1992, at the "el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos" bull ring in suburban Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico. The main event was, for the UWA World Heavyweight Wrestling Championship, Dos Caras defending his title versus challenger Canek. The semifinal saw Enrique Vera, The Black Scorpio, and Tinieblas I (seconded by Alushe) versus el Loco Zandokan, el Scorpio junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). The *tercera* saw The Black Power II and The Can-Am Express I y II (Phil Lason and D. N. S. Funas) versus Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada and los Efectivos/Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) in what promised to be a super match. The *segunda* saw Kahos I, la Sombra Negra (ex-The Black Shadow junior), and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro face el Coloso, Fray Tormenta, and The King, who is debuting in this match. The *inicial* had Ricky Boy, el Mohicano I, el Mohicano II, and el Bucanero junior versus los Tortugillos Karatekas I, II, III, and IV (Donatelo {Rocky Santana}, Leonardo, Miguel Angel, and Rafael).

* They still plan a huge card for Saturday, July 11, 1992, at the "el Palenque de la Feria" gymnasium in Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico. Los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo, el Brazo de Plata, and el Brazo de Oro) from the EMLL are booked, as are los Guerreros del Acero I y II (The Steel Warriors) with their manager el Sacerdote Maldito, and a whole host of UWA regulars. Also in from EMLL are Love Machine and Solomon Grundy.

In news that is not strictly card- or result-related, first, Super Luchas magazine did a very nice Fathers' Day issue. Interviewed in two separate articles were father Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada and daughter Xochitl Hamada; and father Rey Mendoza (Jorge Diaz) and sons el Villano I (Jorge junior), III (Arturo), IV (Tomas), and V (?).

* Speaking of el Villano IV, as the magazine noted in a separate article focusing on the return to the ring after a long car-accident-caused absence of "el Loco Zandokan," that it was el Villano IV who had won the mask of el Loco Zandokan (a pirate gimmick) in a match in 1988 at el Toreo, and that that mask was the first mask of el Villano IV's career as a singles wrestler.

* The UWA television show that airs Saturday afternoons on Imevision, channel 13 in Mexico City, goes up on the satellite Morelos One, Channels 2 or 8, at 4:30 pm EDT/1:30 pm PDT.

* A new wrestler coming into the UWA, low on the card, is "The Bad Boy I." He has already been working UWA opening cards shows at *las arenas chicas* like la Arena Xochimilco and la Arena Apatlaco. The Bad Boy I had a nice interview in Titanes del Ring. He is a rudo, and will still work independent dates around Mexico City.

* One other trivia item I discovered. Valente Perez, who at one time was the editor of Lucha Libre Mundial magazine and has held the same duties at their sister publication, Muscle Power, was the man who came up with the ring name and mask and identity for both "Mil Mascaras" and Tinieblas back in the mid-1960's.

* Shu, el Guerrero was interviewed in Ovaciones in their July 2, 1992, issue, and he said that he felt the best three luchadores in the UWA, in order, were, overall, fellow rudo Canek, and tecnico brothers Dos Caras and Mil Mascaras

Here are some more UWA cards I heard of near the last minute:

* The television taping to be shown next Saturday (7/11/92) was taped on Friday, July 3, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl. The main event was set as el Villano V defending the UWA World Light Heavyweight Championship versus the challenge of Doctor Wagner junior. By the way, Doctor Wagner junior will travel with el Angel Blanco for a third tour this year in Guatemala. The card's semifinal had Dos Caras, Enrique Vera, and The Black Scorpio face Rambo, el Loco Zandokan, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). The *tercera* saw Silver King and el Texano face The Can-Am Express I y II in a non-title match. The *segunda* saw el Villano IV, el Villano V, and Fray Tormenta face el Rostro Infernal and los Scorpio I and junior. The *primera* saw Mando Amezcua junior face el Soberbio.

* The Saturday, July 4th, card at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, saw Dos Caras and The Black Scorpio face The Can-Am Express I y II (Phil Lason and D. N. S. Funas).

* The Saturday, July 4th, card at la Arena Tejupilco saw Silver King, el Texano, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada versus el Engendro, el Scorpio I, and el Scorpio junior.

* The card held Monday, July 6th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla, featured The Black Scorpio, el Villano III, and el Tinieblas I (seconded by Alushe) versus Doctor Wagner junior, D. N. S. Funas, and Phil Lason.

* Speaking of Funas and Lason, the Can-Am Express's last day in on this tour of Mexico is Sunday, July 12, 1992. That day, at el Toreo, they are programmed to face los Efectivos/Cowboys in a *maskaras contra caballerias* match. The Cowboys would win, allowing them to "save face" for their title loss two weeks earlier.

* Tala Menendez got a nice write-up in the 7/3/92 *Ovaciones*, her first nice write-up that I can remember.

* Pimpinela Escarlata and May Flowers also got a nice write-up in the same issue, saying that they did real well on their tour of Japan. They worked through the 7/8/92 New Japan show and then returned back to Mexico, arriving on 7/8/92 in Mexico because of crossing the international date line.

And, finally, thanks to David Scherer, I have the results from the UWA television show that aired this past Saturday, July 4th, 1992, and had been taped eight days earlier (Friday, June 26, 1992) at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in Netzahualcoyotl, Mexico, Mexico.

The main interviewees and focus of the show were The Can-Am Express I y II, Phil Lason and D. N. S. Funas (better known to most of us as Daniel Kroffatt and Douglas Fumas). They did some interviews but they were dubbed rather than sub-titled and were hard to hear. Plus, they got to win the semifinal match, which was nice.

The opener of the card at the arena did not air on television. It featured a *mano a mano* match-up between la Flecha of the "los Nuevos Arqueros del Espacio" trio team versus el Gran Petroneo. So, we started with the *segunda*, los Espantos IV and V versus las Estrellas Blancas I and II. The Espantos are cousins of el Espanto junior, who just jumped to the AAA and in turn is the nephew of the original el Espanto Segundo. In this match, los Espantos won the bout in three falls via clean submission in the third fall. ** 1/2.

The semifinal at the arena was the semifinal on television as well. Here, just two days before their title change match, the Can-Am Express defeated los Efectivos/Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) two falls to one. Funas pinned King to win the first fall. King returned the favor in the second fall with the missile kick (dropkick from off of the top rope). During the second fall, el Texano juiced pretty good. The third fall went back and forth before Funas pinned King cleanly to win the fall and the match. Correspondent David Scherer did not like the match too much, giving it ** 3/4, but other viewers, particularly those in Los Angeles, including luchador Thunder Machine, gave it grades nearer to ****. No doubt, however, that The Can-Ams are getting the grade A push that only Benoit and Bigelow are also getting from this promotion among the foreigners.

The main event at the arena did not air on television. It had featured Canek, el Loco Zandokan, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) versus el Villano III, Dos Caras, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada. Instead, the *estela* for TV was the *tercera* at the arena. There, las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V) defeated Bull Pain, The Babe Face, and Doctor Wagner junior two falls to one. The tecnicos won the first and third fall to win the match. Doctor Wagner junior had his mask removed twice during the third fall, but no disqualification was forthcoming from UWA referees el Bucles and el Fresero. Finally, in desperation, Doctor Wagner junior fouled one of the Villanos to cause the disqualification. Said to be a poor match (los Villanos have not looked good at all lately) and rated at * 3/4.

There was one other highlight to the show. During an interview conducted by Tala Menendez, they showed a picture of a lucha libre cartoon. The cartoon was of one luchador holding another luchador in a headlock. The luchador applying the headlock appeared to be one of the Villanos, and the wrestler receiving the headlock wore a costume and mask with the Televisa logo. Pretty funny when you think about it.

If anyone wants to trade for the UWA tapes or has them to trade and wants to be listed, just write me in Chicago.

AAA

Here are some of the most recent AAA results:

- * The match on the card from Queretaro of June 12th, 1992 that was off TV on the June 14th, 1992 TV show in Mexico City and June 21st, 1992 on Galavision, saw rudos el Canalla I and el Angel Mortal (he's good) defeat the team of el Marques junior (he's good) and el Bandido two falls to one when el Bandido turned heel on his partner.
- * The weekly television taping was held on Friday, July 3rd, 1992, at the "el Auditorio Municipal" in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico. The *inicial* was not listed in the newspapers. The *segunda* saw Super Calo, Super Raton, and (Super) Pinochio face Bleda, el Magnate, and Atila junior. The *tercera* saw la Mascarita Sagrada, Octagoncito, and el Angelito Azteca face Jerrito Estrada, el Piratita Morgan, and el Picudito. The semifinal saw Super Muneco, el Angel Azteca, and la Panterita de Ring face The Ice Killer, la Parca, and el Maligno. The *estelar* saw Octagon, el Volador, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo face Fishman, Cien Caras, and the debuting Jerry "el Puma" Estrada.
- * The AAA held a big card Saturday, July 4, 1992, at the gymnasium of Cal State-Los Angeles in Los Angeles, California, USA. Added at the last minute were AAA stars Konnan el Barbaro, el Hijo del Santo, el Cobarde II, Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, Fishman, Cien Caras, el Espanto junior, and los minis. See page six for results.
- * In last week's issue, I reported the results of the top two matches at the AAA card held Saturday, June 27th, 1992, at la Arena Apatlaco in the Mexico City area. To summarize, Octagon defeated Fuerza Guerrera two falls to one to retain his Mexican National Middleweight Championship. In the semifinal, el Ciclon Azul defeated el Cubano (not Pat Hoed or Carlos Rey or even Carlos Espada) two falls to one in a *caballera contra caballera* match. One other match was slated that I know of: Katana (ex-"Leon Chino"), el Angel Azteca, and la Mascara Sagrada were booked to face Universo Dos Mil, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and el Tornado. Two other matches were also booked, but I don't have the match-ups. Speaking of Mascara Ano Dos Mil, that match above on June 27th was his first in 43 days because on the initial AAA card in Veracruz held Friday, May 15th, 1992, he had been inadvertently poked in the eye by a fan as Mascara Ano Dos Mil was on his way back to the dressing room after the main event. Just like his brother Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil seems to have some sort of a "bad luck with the eyes" jinx.
- * A card held Saturday, June 27th, 1992, at la Arena Xochimilco in Xochimilco, Distrito Federal, Mexico, was headlined by el Misterioso, el Hijo del Santo, and el Volador versus Reptil, The Blue Panther, and el Espanto junior. This was el Espanto junior's debut match with the AAA. Four nights earlier, in the interior of Mexico (read "boondocks") el Espanto junior had dropped the UWA World Welterweight Championship to el Celestial.

Now onto a few basic AAA news items: First, Rambo, Jerry "el Puma" Estrada, el Espanto junior, la Panterita del Ring, and los Matematicos II, III, and IV have jumped for sure. Still rumored to be coming in, but not showing up on any AAA booking sheets yet, are Doctor Wagner junior, Ricky Boy, The Love Machine, el Oso Norman (Mike Shaw, ex-Aaron Grondy), and Jose "el Negro" Casas. Casas I do expect will jump but the earliest that would be (very definitely) at least several weeks away. Also, recently Weekly Pro magazine interviewed el Misterioso outside the 5th floor EMLL gym at la Arena Mexico. It was hinted that el Misterioso may want to jump back from AAA to EMLL.

* Weekly Pro also gave a nice write-up on la Panterita del Ring, an independent wrestler who holds a rare pinfall victory over Jose "el Negro" Casas. Panterita will be coming to Japan on the August Universal tour as a pareja partner of America, and they will be billed as "el Pantera del Ring" and "el Pantera II."

* The AAA show goes up on satellite at 12:30 pm EDT/9:30 am PDT Sundays on satellite Morelos One, channel 14, and then again at 6:30 pm EDT/3:30 pm EDT and again one hour later on the clearer satellite Galaxy Two, channel 8. For those of you with satellite dishes, I'll try to re-confirm these for next week as well.

* El Fantasma was interviewed in Super Luchas recently. Earlier, in the same magazine's biographical data, he had claimed that he debuted in 1968. Now he claims he debuted as "el Fantasma" at the age of 18, in 1979, which would make him 31 years old today, with a thirteen-year career. He is legit best friends with "el Solar I," and was the behind the scenes force that led to Solar's jump from UWA to AAA. "El Fantasma" is based on "The Phantom" comic strip.

* The AAA Micro-Super-Estrellas have once again challenged the AAA Super-Mini-Estrellas. That feud would never work and could even ruin both gimmicks. The minis are legitimate draws in the ways midgets used to be in the USA in the 1950s/1960s. They can work rings around the micros (except for Micro Fuerza Guerrera and Micro Konnan).

* By the way, to clarify something, "Los Micro Destructores" used to be billed as "el Pequeno Goliath," "Leon, el Salvaje," and "el Gran Nikolay" in the UWA. It's "Leon, el Salvaje" who broke his arm in training and is out for another month or two. They brought in another new micro, "CHucky, el Muneco Diabolico." He is based on the Chucky horror movies from the USA with the demonically possessed puppet doll. And, it turns out that "Super Calo," the "Mariachi-Rap-Master" of lucha libre, used to be billed as "el Diabolico CHucky," a larger-sized version of the same Chucky gimmick. I don't see how "Super Calo" can work under that hot skin-colored latex mask he wears, either

Now, onto the results from the big Saturday night, July 4th, 1992 card, at The California State University at Los Angeles gymnasium in Los Angeles, California, USA. I want to thank Lucha Libre Weekly correspondent David A. Meltzer (oh, yeah, he also does The Wrestling Observer Newsletter), who saw the show live, for this report.

First, the biggest result might be the attendance and the gate. The announced attendance was a sell-out of 8,500 fans. Meltzer estimated the actual attendance at 5,400. Legitimately, 1,000 people were turned away at the box office. The gate was estimated at \$95,000.00 or so USA dollars, which is more than a full crowd of 17,100+ at la Arena Mexico would generate. This was based on ticket prices of \$30.00 US ringside, \$20.00 lower balcony, and \$10.00 upper balcony. That may be the largest independent-show gate and attendance in years.

The card was taped for television. Even though satellite owners David Scherer and Greg Goode tried mightily to find the show on satellite this past Saturday night (July 4th) they could not find it. However, it did air on a tape-delayed basis in Mexico City at 11:00 am local time on Sunday, July 5th, and will air on Galavisión at 7:30 pm EDT/4:30 pm PDT in the U. S. A on Sunday, July 12th. They return August 8, 1992, to CSLA.

The opening two matches were the ones kept off of television. In the opener, los Mercenarios Americanos (Billy Anderson and Louis "Cutie Pie" Spicoli) defeated Tlaloc and el Gran Coloso in a one-fall match. Spicoli pinned Tlaloc with a rolling splash from off of the top rope. Both Anderson and Spicoli did simultaneous *topes suicidas* right before the finish. Said not to be too good, even though everyone tried really hard. *

The second match on the card saw the second-best match on the show. El Piloto Suicida, Cosmos, and Arandu defeated el CHacal Rivera, el CHamaco Rebelde, and The Lover Boy in a one-fall bout. They all tried hard and did some beautiful high spots, though they also missed some of the more complicated spots they tried. The finish saw el Piloto Suicida do a super-high *tope con hilo* a Liger dive (with a flip) over the top rope onto el CHacal Rivera, who was then counted out of the ring. Said to be *** 1/2.

The third match of the night will be the television opener. It featured los super-mini-estrellas. Tecnicitos la Mascarita Sagrada and el Angelito Azteca defeated rudos el Espectrito (junior) and el Piratita Morgan two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:20. The first fall saw the rudos win in 5:45; the second saw the tecnicos win in 4:45. The third fall and the match ended at the 5:50 mark when la Mascarita Sagrada pinned el Espectrito (junior) with the Asai moonsault bodyblock inside the ring (called *la quebrada*). This was a rudo-dominated match, full more of punching and kicking than moves, so it garnered a lower rating than one might think, ** 1/2. Still, la Mascarita Sagrada was said to be something to see and a sure bet to get over when he goes to the WWF.

The second match for television, and the fourth of the night, saw AAA regulars Jerry "el Puma" Estrada and Mando Guerrero teamed with Bull Rider (not ex-el Rey Misterio) to defeat the local trio of Ultraman Dos Mil, el Piloto Nuclear, and el Mercurio. This match *may* be off television, though. The first fall went 3:26 before Ultraman Dos Mil pinned Guerrero with *la quebrada*. The second fall went 6:11 before, in a messed-up finish, Guerrero pinned el Mercurio. And in the third fall, Estrada made el Mercurio submit in 4:47 to a *swastika*-like submission hold. So the time of the whole match was 14:24. El Mercurio had his mask ripped up really badly here. There was a ton of heat, but these guys missed a lot of spots. Estrada can be really super but didn't get a chance to show it here. * 1/2.

The semifinal saw our *caballero contra caballero* match as Konnan el Barbaro defeated el Cobarde II two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 11:55. The main story in the match happened right at the opening bell. Konnan el Barbaro's second was Billy Anderson trainee James Iono. El Cobarde's second was local muscle man "Wally The Wall." In the opening spot, Wally tripped Konnan, but when Konnan fell, he separated his shoulder legit. Cobarde just covered Konnan for the fall in 0:23. The second fall went 2:11 before Konnan won with a diving lariat. The third fall went a long 9:23 before Konnan pinned Cobarde with the side suplex/side slam. Then, they took nearly twenty minutes to cut el Cobarde's hair! This was said to be old-fashioned American-style Jerry Lawler-like booking and wrestling. There was a ton of heat for Konnan and there was a lot of good psychology. During one of the ringside melees, AAA head honcho Antonio Pena got hit with a chair by Wally The Wall. Due to the injuries, etc., this match was rated at * 1/2.

The main event, said to be the best match on the show, had Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, el Misterioso, and el Hijo del Santo losing to Cien Caras, Fishman, and el Espanto junior two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 21:02. In the first fall, at 8:33, el Hijo del Santo pinned Fishman with his diving rolling headbutt (*tope*) from off of the top rope. The second fall went 5:48 before el Espanto junior pinned el Hijo del Santo with a diving body press/splash from off of the top rope, a dive in which he was aided by both Cien Caras and Fishman and was said to have come off really well. The third fall went 6:41 before Konnan interfered to save the tecnicos from a merciless pounding. After the second fall, Cien Caras had kneed el Misterioso in the back from the ring apron, and el Misterioso took a rolling onto the floor, and had to be carried off. The rudos then had a three-on-two in the third fall, made Aguayo b' and kept punishing rather than pinning the tecnicos, until Konnan's save. El Hijo del Santo did his normal *tope* move but instead of the second being a *tope suicida* it became a *tope con hilo*. An incredible move!

LATE NEWS

Due to space consideration, there will be no mini-biography this week. Next week, the mini-biography will be of M. S. 1. Among the late news items I have are some data gathered in Los Angeles from various sources. First, finally, we have a real name for Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense. It is Ian Hutchinson. I guess "Billy" was just an alias. A free lifetime subscription to Lucha Libre Weekly to the person (you know who you are) who got me this information. Also, I learned that Eddy Guerrero has jumped back to the EMLL from the UWA, but under a mask (that makes no sense) as "la Mascara Magica." Also, expect Jose "el Negro" Casas's jump to the AAA come sooner than expected. The last EMLL show of this tour of la Arena Mexico will be Sunday, July 20th, 1992, and I would not be surprised to see that be Casas's last day in the EMLL. It should also be Konnan's last day with AAA as he definitely starts with the WWF on July 21st. The tour of the Middle East, which 12 Mexican wrestlers were to be going on, and was apparently led/booked by Chris Adams, fell through when their plane tickets never arrived. Expect el Angel Blanco junior, The Love Machine, Super Astro, and Doctor Wagner junior to be arriving in AAA camps soon. I don't know for sure yet about Pimpinela Escarlata, May Flowers, or Canek, but those seem to be the last three the AAA wants from the UWA. And, the AAA wants to run a whole circuit of American cities, but if they are as disorganized and with no more long-term plans than they indicated at the Los Angeles show, then I would not hold my breath. It does seem that Antonio Pena was real unhappy when the card was over, and it may have had to do with the revenue split from this big gate.

NOTE ONE: Since I guess Dave Meltzer is not going to run it, there are three brand new Japanese video stores that have opened recently. One is "Gen-Dai Video" in Beaverton, Oregon; the second is "Ise-Ya Video Center" in southwest Miami (near Kendall); and the third is "Video Hi-ma-wa-ri" in Hacienda Heights, California.

NOTE TWO: Greg Goode, address: 900 S. W. 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315, is willing to trade recent lucha libre shows that he has taped from Fort Lauderdale off of a cable company satellite. He has EMLL, UWA, and AAA off of satellite for trade or sale. Please write Greg for more information.

NOTE THREE: Next week's issue will be sent on time, but it will be a SPECIAL ISSUE. It is the "mid-year-to-date" issue and will have only the most cursory news highlights.

FROM: LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 20

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1992

c/o STEPHEN H. SIMS

1427 WEST DICKENS AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614-3003

(312)477-3996



R. Scott Houston

1726 Heatherwood Way

P.O. Box 249

West Friendship, MD 21774-0249

Scott - expires soon
→

PAID THROUGH ISSUE

22